



## Department of Homeland Security Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report for 24 February 2009

Current Nationwide  
Threat Level is



[For info click here](http://www.dhs.gov/)  
<http://www.dhs.gov/>

- According to Examiner.com, top NASA managers said that a potentially catastrophic problem with propulsion system flow valves have sidelined Discovery's STS-119 launch to an unknown date. (See item [7](#))
- The Associated Press reports that an improvised chemical bomb set off in front of a Smith's grocery store in Albuquerque, New Mexico on Friday, injuring 15 people. (See item [34](#))

### **DHS Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report Fast Jump**

Production Industries: [Energy](#); [Chemical](#); [Nuclear Reactors](#), [Materials and Waste](#); [Defense Industrial Base](#); [Dams](#)

Service Industries: [Banking and Finance](#); [Transportation](#); [Postal and Shipping](#); [Information Technology](#); [Communications](#); [Commercial Facilities](#)

Sustenance and Health: [Agriculture and Food](#); [Water](#); [Public Health and Healthcare](#)

Federal and State: [Government Facilities](#); [Emergency Services](#); [National Monuments and Icons](#)

## **Energy Sector**

Current Electricity Sector Threat Alert Levels: **Physical**: ELEVATED,  
**Cyber**: ELEVATED

Scale: LOW, GUARDED, ELEVATED, HIGH, SEVERE [Source: ISAC for the Electricity Sector (ES-ISAC) – <http://www.esisac.com>]

1. *February 22, WJLA 7 Washington, D.C.* – (Gulf of Mexico) **Cargo to be removed from tanker grounded off Texas.** Officials say they plan to remove cargo from a grounded oil tanker in the Gulf of Mexico to reduce its weight and hopefully refloat it. A Coast Guard spokeswoman said February 22 that some cargo from the Yasa Golden Dardanelles would be moved to another vessel. She says the new plan follows unsuccessful attempts Saturday to free the 800-foot tanker using tugboats at high tide. She also says there is no indication that the ship's load of 621,000 barrels of low sulfur fuel oil has leaked or spilled. There are no reports of injuries from the crew. The tanker ran aground Friday about 22 miles off the Texas coast while waiting for a pilot to guide it into the Houston Ship Channel.

Source: <http://www.wjla.com/news/stories/0209/597348.html?ref=rs>

2. *February 21, KHON 2 Honolulu* – (Hawaii) **Fuel spill closes H-1 freeway for hours.** All eastbound lanes on the H-1 freeway between Kapolei and Kunia were reopened around 7:30 p.m. February 20. The lanes were closed for almost 11 hours because of a massive fuel spill by an Aloha Petroleum fuel tanker which happened just before nine o'clock. "The drive shaft dislodged from the vehicle and ruptured the front tank," said a captain in the Honolulu Fire Department. The truck — which was carrying 10,000 gallons of gasoline — began to leak fuel onto the freeway. Fire crews were called to scene and shut down the east bound direction. Quickly after, they closed the entire freeway. Hazmat and fire crews were able to clean-up and secure the spill by late afternoon on February 21, opening back up the west bound direction and a portion of the freeway eastbound.

Source: <http://www.khon2.com/news/local/40038892.html>

3. *February 20, Reuters* – (Texas) **Blast in DCP Texas plant damages EXCO unit's pipeline.** Oil and gas explorer EXCO Resources Inc said one of its midstream subsidiary's pipelines was damaged in the explosion that took place in the DCP Midstream's gas processing plant in Carthage, Texas, on February 11. The company said while it was assessing the total damage from the explosion with its insurance carriers, the operations at the pipeline were restored to full capacity since February 17, after being slightly impacted initially. EXCO said the incident had an immaterial impact on its upstream production operations. On February 11, a spokeswoman at DCP Midstream said the blast, which occurred at about 10:15 a.m. near the east Texas natural gas plant, had not caused any damage to the facility and that all employees had been accounted for.

Source:

<http://www.reuters.com/article/rbssIndustryMaterialsUtilitiesNews/idUSBNG43239020090220>

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## **Chemical Industry Sector**

4. *February 23, InjuryBoard Honolulu* – (National) **Landmark Chemical Reform places burden on industry to prove chemicals are safe.** Toxic chemicals in consumer products are a major fear because they get into the people who use them. Three members of Congress have introduced legislation to help ensure that chemicals are safe before they come to market. The current Toxic Substances Control Act, unchanged since 1976, approves most new chemicals with little or no safety testing. Over 62,000 existing chemicals are on the market now and have remained on the market for 30 years despite evidence that some pose serious health risks. The Kid Safe Chemicals Act, by Senators from New Jersey and California along with two Representatives from California, would place the burden of proof on the chemical industry to show that chemicals are safe for children before they are added to consumer products. A coalition of grassroots, state and national organizations led by Environmental Working Group sent a letter to the lawmakers today applauding their action and pledging support as the work begins to

make this legislation law.

Source: <http://honolulu.injuryboard.com/toxic-substances/landmark-chemical-reform-places-burden-on-industry-to-prove-chemicals-are-safe.aspx?googleid=257244>

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## **Nuclear Reactors, Materials, and Waste Sector**

5. *February 23, World Nuclear News* – (Alabama) **Status change for Bellefonte nuclear power plant.** The incomplete Bellefonte nuclear power plant in Alabama has been officially ‘terminated’ so that it can later become ‘deferred’ in a unique regulatory maneuver. The change in status, signed off by the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC), is a partial acceptance of a request by plant owner Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA) which wants to study the possibility of completing the plant. The company’s license to build two reactors at the site had previously been terminated in September 2006, after it decided not to complete construction. But in August 2008 TVA approached the NRC again and asked to have the license reinstated to the ‘deferred’ status to allow it to again seriously study the possibility of completion. Some \$10 million was allocated to the studies in mid-2008. The NRC has reinstated the license, but said that it must be in the ‘terminated’ status first of all. This is because the deferred status requires certain levels of maintenance to have been carried out on paperwork and plant components and TVA’s efforts had not met the strict criteria. The license for Bellefonte will remain ‘terminated’ until TVA re-establishes the physical conditions and records quality of the units to the NRC’s satisfaction. Then, the commission will consider moving the license back to ‘deferred’ status.

Source:

<http://www.yournuclearnews.com/status+change+for+bellefonte+nuclear+power+plant+24735.html>

6. *February 22, Associated Press* – (New Jersey) **Officials say Oyster Creek power plant radiation monitors need repair.** Concerns are being raised that not all the radiation monitors at the Oyster Creek nuclear power plant in Lacey are in proper working order. Department of Environmental Protection officials said 3 of the 19 radiation monitors in Ocean County have not worked for more than a year and that occasionally all 19 monitors are out of service at the same time. DEP officials stress that there are other ways to measure radiation and that the faulty monitors do not place the public at risk. The devices are meant to help detect and track any radiation release from the plant and determine who should be evacuated. DEP officials told the Asbury Park Press that they are working on fixing the problem. Critics said they are concerned that budget cuts may affect repairs.

Source:

[http://www.nj.com/news/index.ssf/2009/02/officials\\_say\\_oyster\\_creek\\_pow.html](http://www.nj.com/news/index.ssf/2009/02/officials_say_oyster_creek_pow.html)

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## **Defense Industrial Base Sector**

7. *February 20, Examiner.com* – (National) **Sense of unease leads to indefinite space shuttle launch delay.** Citing a “sense of unease,” top NASA managers said that a potentially catastrophic problem with propulsion system flow valves have sidelined Discovery’s STS-119 launch to an unknown date. NASA’s long-term goal is to redesign the valves, said a Space Shuttle program manager. The potential for valve failures existed long before problems surfaced during Endeavour’s STS-126 launch in November, a fact confirmed by the associate administrator for Space Operations, who said “the problem has been with us from the very first shuttle flight.” During Endeavour’s thunderous ascent, one of the three main engine valves allowed extra volatile hydrogen to flow through the propulsion system. The other two valves compensated and maintained flow at a safe level, but the sudden drop in pressure was alarming. In addition, post-flight inspections showed that metal material was missing from one of the valves. Later analysis also showed that grooves resulting from the manufacturing process could actually hide minute cracks. Upcoming missions could be allowed to fly “as is” if engineers can prove that the valves will perform safely, said the program manager. But that analysis will take an unknown amount of time.  
Source: <http://www.examiner.com/x-504-Space-News-Examiner~y2009m2d20-Sense-of-unease-leads-to-indefinite-NASA-launch-delay>

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## **Banking and Finance Sector**

8. *February 23, SPAMfighter* – (International) **Lloyds Banking Group cautions customers against phishing attacks.** Lloyds Banking Group (LBG), which came into existence in January 2009 with Lloyds Trustee Savings Bank taking over Halifax Bank of Scotland, apprehends that there could be a wave of phishing attacks aimed at its customers due to the acquisition. Consequently, the bank is alerting its customers as well as asking them to remain vigilant of scammers attempting to trick them into giving away their password and account information through phishing e-mails. Moreover, describing the act of phishing, the bank stated it involves online fraudsters who send e-mails to the bank’s customers, posing as communications from the bank. The e-mails typically ask the recipient to click on a link that actually connects to a phishing site designed to appear like the actual banking site, where the user is prompted to enter his security credentials and account number, eventually leading to a phishing fraud. In addition, the bank provided consumers a clue that could help them identify phishing messages. Since LBG, it said, would never represent a consumer trademark, any e-mail coming under Lloyds’ name would certainly be fake. Furthermore, the bank writes on its Web site that it would not send e-mail to its customers asking them to visit the Web site for providing their online banking particulars. Hence, if any customer gets an e-mail of this kind, he/she should avoid it.  
Source: <http://www.spamfighter.com/News-11889-Lloyds-Banking-Group-Cautions-Customers-Against-Phishing-Attacks.htm>
9. *February 21, American Free Press* – (International) **Swiss court blocks bank data sharing with U.S.: report.** A Swiss tribunal has barred financial regulators from handing banking information of UBS bank clients to U.S. authorities investigating tax

fraud, ATS news agency reported. Siding with a complaint from UBS clients, the tribunal on February 20 issued an order forbidding Swiss bank regulator FINMA from giving the plaintiffs' "banking documents to third parties, particularly U.S. authorities," ATS said. The tribunal's decision came amid U.S. Justice Department efforts to break through Switzerland's banking secrecy to go after tax cheats hiding their money in the European country. UBS, Switzerland's biggest bank, reached a settlement with U.S. authorities on February 18 in which it admitted to U.S. tax fraud and agreed to pay \$780 million. The bank was also ordered to hand over details of 250 to 300 U.S. clients. But UBS rejected a new U.S. government lawsuit filed February 19 asking that the bank disclose the identities of some 52,000 U.S. customers who allegedly evaded taxes.

Source:

<http://www.google.com/hostednews/afp/article/ALeqM5g6UCVptekPWBThATJ76RxGCiwTsA>

10. *February 20, CNN Money* – (Oregon) **Regulators close Oregon's Silver Falls Bank.** U.S. bank regulators closed Silver Falls Bank on February 20, the fourteenth U.S. bank to fail this year. The Federal Deposit Insurance Corp (FDIC) said Silver Falls Bank, of Silverton, Oregon, had \$131.4 million in assets and \$116.3 million in deposits, as of February 9. In addition to acquiring all of the failed bank's deposits, Citizens Bank of Corvallis, Oregon agreed to purchase about \$13 million in assets comprised of cash, cash equivalents, securities, overdraft loans, and deposit secured loans, the FDIC said. The failure is expected to cost the FDIC deposit insurance fund an estimated \$50 million, the FDIC said in a statement released late on February 20. Citizens Bank had agreed to assume all of the deposits of Silver Falls Bank, whose three branches will reopen on February 23 as branches of Citizens Bank, the FDIC said.

Source: <http://money.cnn.com/2009/02/20/news/companies/oregon.bank.reut/index.htm>

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## **Transportation Sector**

11. *February 22, Associated Press* – (Ohio) **Indiana governor's plane makes unscheduled landing.** A state-owned airplane carrying the governor of Indiana made an unscheduled landing Sunday morning in Ohio after both of the aircraft's windshields cracked early in his planned flight to the nation's capital. The twin-engine turboprop was headed from Indianapolis to Washington for the National Governor's Association meeting when cracks appeared in one of the aircraft's two windshields, and then in the second windshield shortly thereafter. The pilot diverted the flight to Port Columbus International Airport and landed without incident shortly before 9 a.m., according to a spokeswoman. The governor later took a commercial flight to Washington.

Source: <http://www.chicagotribune.com/news/chi-ap-in-daniels-divertedf,0,4076107.story>

12. *February 22, WZZM 13 Grand Rapids* – (Michigan) **Flight lands safely at Ford Airport after landing gear problems.** A Northwest plane landed safely at Gerald R. Ford International Airport after reporting problems with its landing gear, according to an airport spokesman. Flight 2150 left Grand Rapids at 8 a.m. and was headed east to New

York's LaGuardia Airport, when the flight's crew reported that the landing gear would not retract — about 20 minutes after take off. The plane returned to the airport and circled once. It was safely on the ground at about 8:45 a.m. Twenty six passengers and crew members were aboard. It is not yet clear how Northwest intends to handle the passengers or whether that particular plane will remain out of service.

Source: [http://www.wzzm13.com/news/news\\_story.aspx?storyid=105864&catid=14](http://www.wzzm13.com/news/news_story.aspx?storyid=105864&catid=14)

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## **Postal and Shipping Sector**

13. *February 22, WFOR 4 Boca Raton* – (Florida) **Boca Raton publisher targeted in anthrax hoax.** Investigators are trying to determine who sent a suspicious letter to a Boca Raton publishing company that was targeted in 2001 in a deadly anthrax attack. On February 20 the offices of American Media Inc., which publishes the National Inquirer, the Sun, Star magazine and other grocery store tabloids, were evacuated for about 45 minutes after a letter containing a white powder arrived at the company. Police were able to determine the powder was harmless.

Source: <http://cbs4.com/local/ami.anthrax.hoax.2.940922.html>

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## **Agriculture and Food Sector**

14. *February 23, USAgNet* – (Minnesota) **MDA issues ‘Simply Potatoes’ advisory after finding listeria.** The Minnesota Department of Agriculture (MDA) February 20 issued a consumer advisory for certain refrigerated potato products after testing conducted by the MDA laboratory discovered a sample of Simply Potatoes Southwest Style Hash Browns containing *Listeria monocytogenes* bacteria. The affected products have “use by” dates of March 29, 2009 to April 3, 2009. There are no reports of illness associated with consumption of these products. The potato products at issue are produced by Northern Star Co. of Minneapolis. The company has issued a voluntary product recall. Northern Star Co. potato products are considered by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration as a “not ready to eat” product, meaning that consumers must cook them properly to ensure they are safe to eat.

Source: <http://www.usagnet.com/story-national.php?Id=422&yr=2009>

15. *February 23, Pork Magazine* – (California) **California judge reverses “downer” rule.** A U.S. district judge has ruled that pigs can be slaughtered for food even if too weak or stressed to stand, according to an Associated Press report in the Los Angeles Daily News. A state law banning the slaughter of downer animals was written last year after an animal rights group recorded abuse at a California slaughterhouse. The ruling made on February 19 says that a 102-year-old federal food safety law supersedes the California law. The old law allows pigs too sick to stand to be slaughtered under certain conditions. The finding raised immediate concern from animal welfare groups. The Humane Society of the United States, Farm Sanctuary and the Animal Legal Defense Fund said the ruling could lead to the slaughter of sick and injured animals. Other



animal welfare groups vowed to appeal the ruling saying it endangers the nation's food supply.

Source: [http://www.porkmag.com/news\\_editorial.asp?pgID=675&ed\\_id=7169](http://www.porkmag.com/news_editorial.asp?pgID=675&ed_id=7169)

See also: <http://www.meatami.com/ht/display/ArticleDetails/i/46618/pid/206>

16. *February 21, Associated Press* – (National) **USDA to meat industry: Give shoppers more details.** The Presidential Administration has asked the meat industry to voluntarily give the public more information about where their food comes from. The Agriculture Secretary told consumer groups, farm groups and meat industry leaders earlier last week that the Administration would call for stricter labels on fresh meat and other foods that would show where an animal was born, raised and slaughtered. In calling for the stricter guidelines, the Administration is breaking from rules announced by the department shortly before the former President left office. The labeling law was enacted in a wide-ranging farm bill last year, but much of it was left up to interpretation by the Department of Agriculture. The former Administration's rule, which won praise from Canada, still takes effect next month. Besides the more detailed labels, the Agriculture Secretary also said the law should cover more foods that are defined as "processed." Some of the law's leading opponents have been grocery stores and large meatpacking companies, many of which mix U.S. and Mexican beef, and other businesses involved in getting products to supermarkets.

Source:

[http://www.google.com/hostednews/ap/article/ALeqM5i6OI7KYIz0607is\\_c0UIb1aB4NgD96FJ5R01](http://www.google.com/hostednews/ap/article/ALeqM5i6OI7KYIz0607is_c0UIb1aB4NgD96FJ5R01)

17. *February 20, Champaign News Gazette* – (Illinois) **Inspection found many health violations at Lincoln's Challenge.** Food contaminated by kitchen staff or students caused the illnesses of 20 people at Lincoln's Challenge Academy, according to Champaign County public health officials. And an inspection of the kitchen and dining room the day the illnesses struck produced the lowest public health score in Champaign County since 1993. Health inspectors found eight critical violations on Sunday, including vomit left on the floor near an ice machine, employees failing to change gloves when doing different tasks, an employee drink found in the kitchen on a shelf next to a food preparation sink, a sanitizer bucket with old sanitizer and film on top, a kitchen hand sink with no water supply, an improperly installed dishwashing machine, a hand sink with no backflow protection and a gap under a door leading to a food loading dock. The report found an additional 22 minor violations. An administrator for the Champaign County Public Health Department said test results analyzed by the Illinois Public Health Laboratories in Springfield confirmed that the students had the Norwalk virus. "Essentially the virus got into the food supply inside the facility," she said. "It turns out that a sick person contaminated the food. It could have been a cadet or a food worker. It wasn't any food that was brought in to the academy." "We have increased training and corrective measures for all our staff, and we are increasing our emphasis on personal hygiene training for our cadets," the Academy director said. "We are determined that something like this will never happen again."

Source: [http://www.news-](http://www.news-gazette.com/news/local/2009/02/20/inspection_found_many_health_violations_at_lincol)

[gazette.com/news/local/2009/02/20/inspection\\_found\\_many\\_health\\_violations\\_at\\_lincol](http://www.news-gazette.com/news/local/2009/02/20/inspection_found_many_health_violations_at_lincol)

## **Water Sector**

18. *February 23, Associated Press* – (International) **Water plants reopen after chemical leak in China.** Two water plants shut for three days after a massive chemical leak in eastern China resumed operation February 23, local officials and state media confirmed. Authorities have arrested two officials from the Biaoxin Chemical Company — the plant manager and the company’s legal representative — and closed the factory in Yancheng city in Jiangsu province, the official Xinhua News Agency said. An investigation by environmental inspectors showed that the plant had been illegally discharging the chemical compound phenol into the Xinyanggang River, according to a notice on the local government Web site. Phenol compound is used to make products such as air fresheners, medical ointments, cosmetics, and sunscreens. Police are conducting a criminal investigation into the contamination of water supplies for the city’s 1.5 million residents. Tap water to at least 200,000 people was cut on February 20, the statement said. But the city managed to restore supplies hours after the cut by increasing capacity at a third plant. A city government spokesman said February 23 that tests showed the city’s water was now drinkable, and that the water supply from the city’s west water plant, along with a smaller one, would resume that afternoon. Yancheng city officials have decided to stop all production by chemical factories operating near drinking water sources and move the factories as soon as possible, Xinhua reported. “Severe measures” will be taken against any other polluters, it said. Source: <http://www.forbes.com/feeds/ap/2009/02/23/ap6081162.html>
19. *February 23, ScienceDaily* – (International) **New method to eliminate ibuprofen from polluted waters using ultrasound.** An international team of scientists, including researchers from the University of Barcelona, Spain, have developed an ultrasound treatment to remove ibuprofen from waters polluted with this drug. The new method could be used in water purification plants, which would avoid the emission of pharmaceutical pollutants into rivers, lakes, seas and other surface waters. The team of scientists at the laboratories of the Federal Polytechnic School in Lausanne, Switzerland has developed a novel method for eliminating pharmaceutical products from water. The substance chosen for the study was ibuprofen, as it is one of the drugs that appears with the most frequency in the analyses of waste waters due to its high consumption as an anti-inflammatory and analgesic. “Pharmaceutical compounds are pollutant substances from the moment in which they maintain their pharmacological activity outside the environment for which they were designed,” said the co-author of the study and a researcher at the Department of Chemical Engineering in the University of Barcelona. The new technique consists of subjecting water polluted with ibuprofen to ultrasonic waves that are generated by a piezoelectric generator, which converts electrical energy into mechanical energy and is located at the bottom of the reaction tank. In this way the drug is totally eliminated. During the application of ultrasonic waves to the polluted liquid a physical and chemical reaction is generated known as “sonolysis,” in which water (H<sub>2</sub>O) is disassociated in highly oxidant radicals such as hydroxyl (-OH). This



radical facilitates the oxidation and breaking down of ibuprofen into other low-molecular mass compounds.

Source: <http://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2009/02/090212093941.htm>

20. *February 22, WJZ 13 Baltimore* – (Maryland) **Montebello plant evacuated during chlorine leak.** A water treatment plant in Baltimore is getting back to normal after a hazmat situation sparked an evacuation. Officials say two workers were switching out an old chlorine tank on February 22 at the Montebello Plant when they discovered a small leak. A spokeswoman with the Department of Public Works (DPW) says the problem was contained thanks to good training. “Since our crews are hazmat-trained, they knew what to do. So what they did very quickly is they secured that building, they got out of there so that they were safe, and they called 911 and they got the fire department hazmat crews out here,” the DPW spokeswoman. She also says the leak never posed any risk to the public.

Source: <http://wjz.com/local/chlorine.leak.plant.2.941110.html>

21. *February 20, Environmental Health News* – (California) **Chromium carcinogenic in water; new standard in the works.** Hexavalent chromium, a controversial water contaminant, is carcinogenic in drinking water, scientists have concluded. California will soon propose a new health guideline for water supplies. The conclusion by federal scientists, culminating more than a decade of debate, is likely to trigger new, more stringent standards limiting the amount of hexavalent chromium allowable in water supplies. It has been known for about 20 years that people can contract lung cancer when inhaling hexavalent chromium, also known as Chromium 6. But until now, toxicologists have been uncertain whether it causes cancer when swallowed. National Toxicology Program scientists reported that their two-year animal study “clearly demonstrates” that the compound is carcinogenic in drinking water. Mice and rats contracted malignant tumors in their small intestines and mouths when they drank water containing several different doses of hexavalent chromium. “I think it’s resolved, as much as it can be resolved,” said the deputy director of scientific affairs at California’s Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment. Based largely on the new cancer findings, California and U.S. Environmental Protection Agency officials are re-evaluating what concentration is safe in water supplies. Within a few weeks, California is expected to announce a proposal to set a new health guideline.

Source: <http://www.environmentalhealthnews.org/ehs/news/chromium-in-drinking-water>

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## **Public Health and Healthcare Sector**

22. *February 23, San Diego Union-Tribune* – (National) **Flu virus neutered in new therapy.** Scientists may have found a remarkably effective treatment against multiple forms of influenza, including the deadly bird flu, previous pandemic viruses and most strains of seasonal flu. The antiviral therapy has been successfully tested in mice. It could be ready for clinical trials in humans within two years, the researchers say, and a universal flu vaccine might be possible within five years. Writing yesterday in the online

version of the journal Nature Structural and Molecular Biology, scientists at the Burnham Institute for Medical Research in La Jolla, along with colleagues at the Dana-Farber Cancer Institute in Boston and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention in Atlanta, identified a collection of human monoclonal antibodies that bind to targeted flu viruses, preventing the particles from entering and infecting host cells. Monoclonal antibodies, or mAbs, are proteins produced by the immune system in response to specific antigens or foreign entities, such as viruses. The antibodies neutralize the antigen, providing lasting but selective immunity. Traditional flu vaccines work by injecting dead or weakened virus strains into healthy people, creating mAbs keyed to strains projected to dominate that particular flu season.

Source: <http://www3.signonsandiego.com/stories/2009/feb/23/1n23vaccine003717-flu-virus-neutered-new-therapy/?zIndex=57120>

23. *February 22, Fort Collins Coloradoan* – (Colorado) **CDC expanding Fort Collins labs.** Construction has started on a \$14 million expansion project at the federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention labs in Fort Collins. The CDC labs are on land at Colorado State University's Foothills Campus. Workers there conduct research into vector-borne diseases. The CDC built an \$82 million, four-story, 156,000-square-foot building on the site in 2006, but the top floor of the building was left empty for future expansion. The 2006 project was accompanied by controversy because Colorado's Congressional representatives believed the building would be used to house the entire CDC operation in Fort Collins. However, CDC officials at the time said they would only be moving about 25 percent of their workers into the new building. The \$82 million price tag bought one finished floor — the third floor, dedicated to laboratories. Two other floors were mostly finished, and the fourth floor left empty.

Source:

<http://www.coloradoan.com/article/20090222/NEWS01/902220333/1002/CUSTOMER SERVICE02>

24. *February 20, CNN* – (National) **Gram-negative bacteria are drug-resistant superbugs to watch out for.** Experts believe that a new crop of drug-resistant superbugs could rival the deadly superbug MRSA. A new report from the Infectious Diseases Society of America says these superbugs are creeping onto the radar in hospitals across the country, and the ability to fight them is next to none. The CNN chief medical news correspondent says that these new superbugs may be poised to be the next MRSA, according to the report, but “we can't say that just yet. MRSA is still a much bigger problem.” These superbugs are called “gram-negative” bacteria. The biggest concern with gram-negative bacteria is that there are virtually no drugs to effectively treat them. One drug, Colistin, is the only option that sometimes works, but it is incredibly toxic — it can cause kidney damage. The exact number of gram-negative-related infections or deaths is hard to pin down because these infections are not reported routinely to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. But doctors CNN spoke with say that the numbers could one day rival MRSA numbers.

Source: <http://www.cnn.com/2009/HEALTH/dailydose/02/20/gram.negative.bacteria/>

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## **Government Facilities Sector**

25. *February 22, Associated Press* – (Pennsylvania) **Fire damages 7 school buses in eastern Pa.** Authorities in southeastern Pennsylvania say seven school buses have been severely damaged by fire just outside a town that has been plagued by arsons. Authorities in West Brandywine Township say firefighters were called to North Brandywine Middle School on February 22. Investigators determined that the fires were deliberately set. No suspects have been named. Two suspects have been arrested in at least 10 of the Coatesville fires. Damages from the February 22 fires were estimated at \$400,000.  
Source: <http://www.pennlive.com/ap/stories/index.ssf?/base/national-118/1235312342277840.xml&storylist=topstories#continue>
26. *February 21, Pine Bluff Commercial* – (Arkansas) **Responders prepare for emergency scenario at arsenal.** Emergency responders from Jefferson and nine other counties will participate in an annual, federally evaluated exercise on February 24 to prepare them in case of a chemical emergency at the Pine Bluff Arsenal. The Chemical Stockpile Emergency Preparedness Program (CSEPP) will react to an emergency scenario at the arsenal, the details of which they will not know until they are notified by a hotline sometime after 3 p.m. on February 24, said the CSEPP manager for Arkansas. In addition to Jefferson, Grant County is in the arsenal's immediate response zone. Arkansas, Cleveland, Dallas, Lincoln, Lonoke, Prairie, Pulaski and Saline counties are in what is called the protective action zone. Six hospitals, fire departments, local law enforcement and volunteers throughout the counties will help to set up decontamination tents, reception centers and shelters. The Arkansas CSEPP manager said roughly 120 people, including representatives from the Army and FEMA, will have a hand in evaluating the exercise.  
Source: <http://www.pbcommercial.com/articles/2009/02/22/news/news2.txt>
27. *February 20, Associated Press* – (New Mexico) **Suspicious envelope near capitol investigated.** A suspicious envelope delivered to a state office building has been forwarded to the Secret Service because it was addressed to the former U.S. President. A New Mexico State police spokesman says it was checked and its contents are believed to be harmless. He says it was considered suspicious because it was heavy, but that the fire department found nothing harmful. The police spokesman says authorities believe it was hand-delivered by a woman who has a history of feeling she is in the middle of a conspiracy. Authorities began investigating on the night of February 19 after the package arrived at the Bataan Building across from the Capitol.  
Source: [http://www.newswest9.com/Global/story.asp?S=9878176&nav=menu505\\_2](http://www.newswest9.com/Global/story.asp?S=9878176&nav=menu505_2)

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## **Emergency Services Sector**

28. *February 23, Galveston Daily News* – (Texas) **'Glitch' tells hotels to kick out FEMA guests.** In what officials with the Federal Emergency Management Agency are calling a

“glitch,” an automated message system sent out hundreds of e-mails to hotels and motels Friday afternoon telling them every guest who was staying there with rooms paid for by FEMA were no longer part of the emergency housing program. The messages said Friday night was the last night FEMA would pay for the hotel rooms for those displaced by Hurricane Ike. FEMA has no idea how many of the e-mails went out, but confirmed they only went to the hotels and not those in the rooms. “FEMA staff has already notified applicants and told what their individual end dates will be. Plus, thankfully, the e-mail did not go directly to the applicants in the TSA program,” a FEMA spokesman said. The “glitch” came from the message system used by the contractor FEMA hired to manage the hotel/motel program.

Source: <http://www.galvnews.com/story.lasso?ewcd=123b564d345d7417>

29. *February 20, Fierce VoIP* – (Texas) **Texas publishes NG 911 master plan.** The Texas Commission on State Emergency Communications has released its Next Generation 911 master plan. In the executive summary, the Commission notes that the current 911 system is approaching the end of its “useful life” and that there’s a patchwork of systems that deliver 911 call and location data for landline voice, landline TTY/TDD, wireless/cellular voice, and VoIP to the central dispatch Public Safety Answer Point (PSAP). Adding new technologies requires “substantial” system modification. Texas’s master plan will start with the construction of IP networks to and between PSAPs, followed by rolling out applications that provide next generation functionality. The state government will likely take on more responsibility as the system matures; traditionally localized PSAPs have called the shots. Implementing the new system will require a lot of money, planning and cooperation among all the stakeholders.

Source: <http://www.fiercevoip.com/story/texas-publishes-ng-911-master-plan/2009-02-20>

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## **Information Technology**

30. *February 23, BBC News* – (International) **Warning of infected auction tool.** A third-party add-on for eBay used by thousands of sellers is being flagged by Google as potentially malicious, after it became infected with a Trojan. Auctiva provides tools for sellers on the popular auction Web site. The company confirmed a virus had attached itself to files on its servers but remedied the problem soon after. However, Google continues to warn users searching for the site that it “may potentially harm your computer.” The Trojan, called Adclicker, is classed by security specialist Symantec as a “very low risk.” It is designed to “artificially generate traffic to certain web sites” and is used by malicious hackers to boost clicks to online banner adverts or to inflate Web statistics. On its community forum Auctiva said that it had “initiated a request with Google to have our site cleared from being reported as a malicious site.” Google works in partnership with the StopBadware.org organization to warn users about potentially malicious Web sites that are infected with viruses and Trojans. More than 186,265 Web sites have been reported to StopBadware for hosting malicious programs or Web scripts, which can damage a computer or, in extreme cases, hijack a machine. Users first flagged the problem with the Auctiva site recently after anti-virus software began to warn there

could be a problem with the service.

Source: <http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/technology/7905518.stm>

31. *February 21, PC World* – (International) **Scam antivirus app spreads malware.** Web users have been warned about a new scam that posts fake product reviews in a bid to encourage people to buy a rogue security application called Anti-virus-1. The app is one of a number of bogus security products which promise to provide protection against the latest online threats, but instead have been designed to spread malware or hold users' PCs to ransom. But if a user uses the Internet to research Anti-virus-1, it is possible the user will find a number of glowing reviews, because the tool is posting fake articles online which appear to be endorsed by a number of the Web's top tech sites, including PC Advisor. In reality, the likelihood of an individual coming across an Anti-virus-1 review is slim. According to the owner of technology site BleepingComputer.com, fake reviews will only be seen by those who install the rogue security app. He said that when he installed Anti-virus-1, which also goes by the name Antivirus2010, it added a series of entries into the Windows hosts file which direct users to what appear to be the Web sites of a number of U.K. and U.S. tech sites. That means those with Anti-virus-1 running on their PC may be directed to bogus reviews. The software has never been tested by PC Advisor, and the fake review is not hosted on the PC Advisor site. Other sites apparently targeted by the scam include PC Magazine and TechRadar.

Source:

[http://www.pcworld.com/businesscenter/article/159974/scam\\_antivirus\\_app\\_spreads\\_malware.html](http://www.pcworld.com/businesscenter/article/159974/scam_antivirus_app_spreads_malware.html)

### Internet Alert Dashboard

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Information on IT information sharing and analysis can be found at the IT ISAC (Information Sharing and Analysis Center) Website: <https://www.it-isac.org/>.

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## Communications Sector

32. *February 21, VNUNet.com* – (International) **Symbian users lured by 'Sexy View' malware.** Security experts are warning Symbian users of a new Trojan attack. The China-based 'Sexy View' malware has been targeting handsets running the Symbian S60 Third Edition software. Earlier versions of the system are not believed to be vulnerable. The malware spreads via a text message under the headings 'sexy view' or 'play boy,' according to security firm F-Secure. The attacks target English and Chinese language handsets. Rather than targeting a specific vulnerability in the Symbian software to install itself, Sexy View uses its suggestive name to trick curious users into manually installing the malware. Once installed, the malware attempts to turn off several application management utilities, and then opens a connection to a remote server. From there, user details are collected and archived, and text messages are sent to everyone in

the victim's contact list. "This is something we don't see very often," F-Secure said in a security bulletin. "There are spy tools and other privacy threats directed at S60 Third Edition phones, but malware is still mainly an issue on S60 Second Edition phones." Researchers noted that the malware does not attempt to hide itself, and users can manually remove it through the handset's App Manager Tool. Sexy View is the latest in what security experts expect will be a growing crop of mobile malware in 2009.

Source: <http://www.vnunet.com/vnunet/news/2236940/symbian-users-lured-sexy-view>

33. *February 21, Fort Mill Times* – (Idaho) **Homeland Security backs Idaho cell phone tower.** A proposed cell phone tower on Galena Summit in central Idaho fits with the Department of Homeland Security's plans to expand a public safety network, an Idaho official with the agency says. The official made his comments February 19 at a U.S. Forest Service public meeting in Ketchum, the Times-News reported. He also passed out a letter sent in December 2008, by the governor, who supports the tower because he said improving emergency communications in the remote but popular recreation region outweighs environmental concerns. Some have argued that the tower will detract from the scenic qualities of the rugged region which includes the Sawtooth National Recreation Area, popular with outdoor enthusiasts. The Forest Service last summer rejected the proposed 90-foot tower designed to look like an evergreen tree that would be built just north of State Route 75, which climbs to 8,701-foot Galena Summit. But last fall a regional official with the Forest Service reversed the decision, saying not enough opportunity for public comment had been allowed.

Source: <http://www.fortmilltimes.com/124/story/466718.html>

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## **Commercial Facilities Sector**

34. *February 23, Associated Press* – (New Mexico) **Chemical bombs found at local stores.** Over the weekend, the Albuquerque Police Department's Bomb Squad responded to three bomb calls. At two of the calls, they found chemical bombs. The first one was left in front of a northeast Albuquerque Smith's on February 20. When the bomb squad arrived, they found the chemical concoction and took it in as evidence, along with two juveniles. The improvised bomb left 15 people injured. The next day, another chemical bomb was found in a Target alleyway on Montgomery and Wyoming. Police were able to take the bomb into evidence before it exploded. It will take a day at the lab to determine if the chemicals inside both bombs are similar. Sunday morning the bomb squad was called out again to Albuquerque Academy, a local school. The security guards on campus spotted a suspicious looking package made of two PVC pipes that was left outside the school's music department. The package turned out to be a homemade musical instrument.

Source:

[http://www.krqe.com/dpp/news/crime/crime\\_krqe\\_chemical\\_bombs\\_found\\_in\\_albuquerque\\_200802222000](http://www.krqe.com/dpp/news/crime/crime_krqe_chemical_bombs_found_in_albuquerque_200802222000)

35. *February 22, Associated Press* – (International) **Explosion in Cairo bazaar kills 1, injures 21.** An explosion ripped into a bazaar in Cairo on February 22, killing a French



woman and wounding at least 21 people — most of them foreigners — the government said. It was the first attack on tourists in Egypt in three years. The blast hit the bustling main plaza at the Khan el-Khalili, a 650-year-old bazaar packed with tourists next to one of Cairo's most revered shrines, the Hussein mosque. Within an hour, police found a second explosive device and detonated it safely. Security officials said three people were in custody. Initial reports said a pair of grenades was thrown, but a government statement said the attack involved a homemade bomb placed under a bench in the main plaza.

Source:

<http://www.google.com/hostednews/ap/article/ALeqM5h5hCnSXpjKsUh778941rnW-PgeawD96GSOP00>

36. *February 22, Heritage Press & Guide* – (Michigan) **DFCU branch shut down following removal of 'suspicious package.'** Officials with the Michigan State Police Bomb Squad and the Dearborn Police Department removed a suspicious package on February 19 from the Dearborn Federal Credit Union (DFCU) Financial branch near Oakwood and the Southfield Freeway. The credit union was shutdown for the rest of the day, according to Dearborn police. They said an unidentified man wearing a black jacket and a ski mask placed the package on a counter inside the building during a robbery attempt. It is not known if any money was taken before the man exited the building. The credit union was evacuated and the bomb squad was called in to safely remove the package. There were no injuries reported and the incident remains under investigation.

Source: [http://www.pressandguide.com/stories/022209/loc\\_20090222004.shtml](http://www.pressandguide.com/stories/022209/loc_20090222004.shtml)

37. *February 21, KRIS 6 Corpus Christi* – (Texas) **Walmart at S.P.I.D. and Greenwood evacuated after chemical scare.** Shoppers at the Super Walmart on S.P.I.D. and Greenwood were asked to evacuate after experiencing burning eyes and loss of breath February 20. The Corpus Christi Fire Department was the first on scene, followed by hazardous material crews. They used air monitoring equipment to identify harmful chemicals in the store, but found nothing suspicious. A fire chief added, "The store looks totally normal. There's nothing unusual to any of the pool chemical area, so our belief is possibly it could have been pepper spray or mace that was sprayed inside the store." No employees or customers were hurt in the incident, but several were briefly checked out by medics outside the store. They added that some quick thinking by store managers ensured the safety of dozens of shoppers.

Source: <http://www.kristv.com/Global/story.asp?S=9884079>

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## **National Monuments & Icons Sector**

38. *February 22, Associated Press* – (Wyoming) **Grand Teton investigates snowmobiling in video.** Officials in Grand Teton National Park say they are investigating a YouTube video that shows skiers riding a snowmobile over Jackson Lake. Only ice fishermen are permitted to ride snowmobiles over the frozen lake. The video shows four skiers crossing the lake — two riding the snowmobile and the other two being towed behind on skis. The four then climb up Skillet Glacier on 12,607-foot Mount Moran. They ski

back down, then use the snowmobile to cross back over the lake. The video ends with the four toasting their feat in a bar. A Grand Teton spokeswoman says park rangers check to make sure snowmobilers on the lake have fishing licenses and tackle. She says the video shows a “blatant disregard for the established regulations.”

Source: <http://www.kivitv.com/Global/story.asp?S=9886108>

39. *February 22, Associated Press* – (Idaho) **Northern Idaho roads to recreation could be repaired.** The Forest Service earlier this month released its plan for rebuilding roads in the 75,000-acre Lightning Creek drainage on the Idaho Panhandle — one of the wettest in the state and which also contains a fault line that makes it susceptible to landslides. The plan calls for rebuilding about 13 miles of road and obliterating 53 miles of road, most of which is already impassible or closed. Other considerations in the Forest Service plan include the area being a haven for endangered species such as grizzly bear and bull trout. Sandpoint Ranger District has secured about \$2.5 million in emergency relief money from the Federal Highway Administration for work in the drainage. Other sources of money will come from supplemental flood restoration funding within the Forest Service, Avista Utilities dam re-licensing mitigation funding, money from the congressional Legacy Roads & Trails Remediation program, and possibly federal economic stimulus funding. The Forest Service plan also includes converting 16 miles of road into non-motorized trail. The plan calls for restoring all of Lightning Creek Road No. 419, the valley’s transportation backbone. A Forest Service hydrologist said the work could take up to eight years to complete, and would be divided into segments to limit disturbances to grizzly bears. Work could begin this year if there is not an administrative appeal or a lawsuit.

Source: <http://www.deseretnews.com/article/1,5143,705286725,00.html>

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## **Dams Sector**

40. *February 21, Gazette Reporter* – (New York) **Earthquake triggers Gilboa dam inspection.** A small earthquake southeast of Albany on February 18 prompted an immediate inspection of the Gilboa Dam under new operating procedures put in place by the New York City Department of Environmental Protection (DEP), an engineer said on February 20. The earthquake was minor and did not cause any damage to the massive concrete structure that remains the focus of a multimillion-dollar construction project now in its first phase, said the chief of western operations for the DEP. News of the DEP’s response to the earthquake was part of an update representatives from the DEP provided to the Schoharie County Board of Supervisors on Friday. According to the Lamont-Doherty Cooperative Seismographic Network, the magnitude 2.4 event took place at roughly 11:20 p.m. on February 18 centered roughly 32 miles southeast of Albany. People in the vicinity of a magnitude 2.4 earthquake would feel minor shaking lasting two or three seconds, according to a senior research scientist at the Lamont-Doherty Earth Observatory of Columbia University in Palisades, New York. The New York City DEP was notified and immediately dispatched inspectors to ensure there were no problems, as part of new standard operating procedure, the chief said.

Source: [http://www.dailygazette.com/news/2009/feb/21/0221\\_quakedam/](http://www.dailygazette.com/news/2009/feb/21/0221_quakedam/)

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